

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction:

Claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended herein, claims 5-6 and 13-17 are canceled, and new claims 18-23 are added herein. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 7-12, and 18-23 will be pending.

II. Claim Objections:

Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended to replace "the source" with --a source of packets--, as suggested by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent No. 6,128,298 (Wootton et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,805 (Civanlar et al.). Claims 5 and 6, which have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 7, and 8, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wootton and Civanlar and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,181,534 (Semaan et al.).

Wootton et al. disclose an Internet Protocol (IP) filter. The IP filter effects a translation between a source port number for a private network and a destination port number for the public network for communication therebetween. As noted by the Examiner, Wootton et al. do not disclose filtering out packets over a second IP based interface that specify a gateway network element as a source of the packets.

The Civanlar et al. patent is directed to interconnecting emulated LANs. Civanlar et al. utilize ATM addresses and interfaces, in contrast to applicants' IP addresses and interfaces. The section of the patent cited by the Examiner describes the

processing of ATM packets in an ELAN (emulated LAN) having interconnected servers. A control packet (address resolution packet) is transmitted from a LAN emulation client (LEC) to a LAN emulation server (LES) (see Figs. 4 and 7). The control packet is requesting an ATM address from the LES. If the ATM address of a destination packet is not found within the LES, the LES tests to determine if it itself originated the address resolution request packet. If the answer is yes, the LES discards the packet containing the request. If the answer is no, the LES broadcasts the address resolution request to all LECs. Rather than filtering packets having a specified source address as recited in the claims, Civanlar et al. broadcast address resolution requests for requests that are not originated at an LES.

In order to further distinguish over the cited references, claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended to specify applying a first set of filtering rules to packets received over the first IP based interface and a second set of filtering rules to packets received at the second IP based interface, wherein the first and second set of rules specify acceptable destination addresses for the packets. Applicants' invention, as set forth in the claims apply filtering rules based on which interface a packet arrives.

Semaan et al. disclose an address resolution protocol to map IP addresses to a node transport identifier. A drawback with systems such as disclosed in Semaan et al. that have an IP based DCC, is that features previously present in the separation between an OSI based DCC and an IP based DCN are missing. In contrast to Semaan et al., applicants' claimed gateway network element provides onboard separation between the networks that mimic the features of the separation between the OSI based DCC and the IP based DCN found in legacy systems.

Accordingly, claims 1, 7, and 8 are submitted as patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-4 and 18-22, depending from claim 1, and claims 10-12, depending from claim 8, are submitted as patentable for at least the same reasons as their base independent claims.

The other references cited including U.S. Patent Nos. 5,623,601 (Vu) and 6,892,235 (Daude et al.) do not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references.

IV. Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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